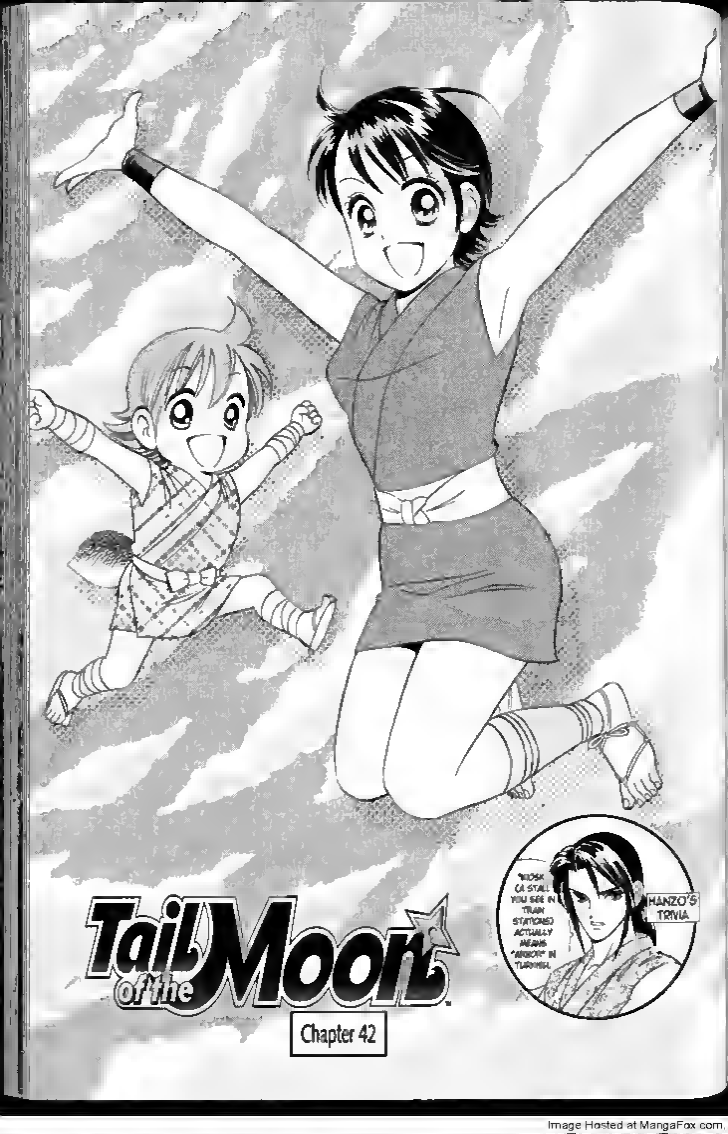

TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE HANZO IN A SWIMSUIT!"

-NAOPU, AKITA PREFECTURE

I CAN'T SEE STRAIGHT WHEN HANZO'S WEARING A SPEEDO. ♡
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
ONE...
TWO...
DON'T FORGET TO WARM UP BEFORE YOU GO INTO THE SEA!
Uh, you've got a nose-bleed...

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OH, THAT...
I MADE THIS FOR GOEMON, SO IT'S GOT MORE SALT IN IT THAN USUAL...
HOW IS IT?
IT'S A LITTLE TOO SALTY FOR A NORMAL SALT-FLAVORED PORRIDGE.
YOU NEED SALT TO RECOVER YOUR STRENGTH, RIGHT?
FWP
RIGHT...
DON'T FORGET TO MAKE EVERYONE ELSE DINNER, TOO.
TROMP TROMP
JUST DON'T FORGET TO MAKE DINNER!!
I WAS GOING TO MAKE GOEMON'S MEDICINE NEXT...
UM...
"IF YOU KEEP TAKING YOUR TIME LIKE THIS, USAGI'S FORMER FIANCÉ MIGHT WHISK HER AWAY FROM YOU."
OKAY...
I'LL GO AND PICK THE HERBS.
TROMP TROMP
HANZO...
CAN YOU TASTE THIS...?
WELL, I PRACTICED A LOT.
WOW, YOU'RE GOOD, USA... ♪
CHOP CHOP

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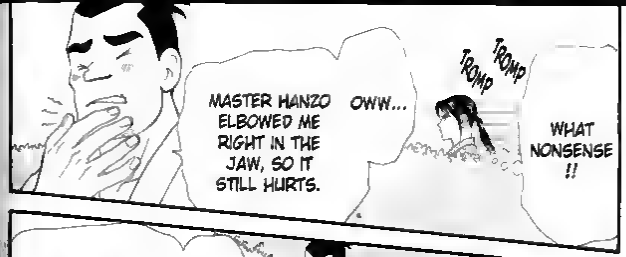
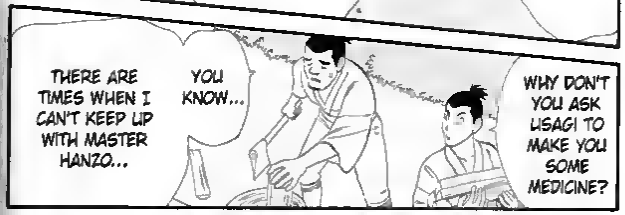
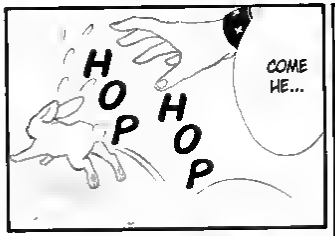




AT THIS RATE, WHO KNOWS WHEN USAGI'S GOING TO DUMP HIM AND GO BACK TO HER VILLAGE...?
...BUT HE'S ALSO STRICT WITH OTHERS...
MASTER HANZO'S VERY STRICT WITH HIMSELF...

TROMP
TROMP
WE'RE JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU, MASTER HANZO...
WE...WE WEREN'T TALKING BEHIND YOUR BACK.
THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE WORRIED ABOUT ME!!
GRRRR
GRRRR



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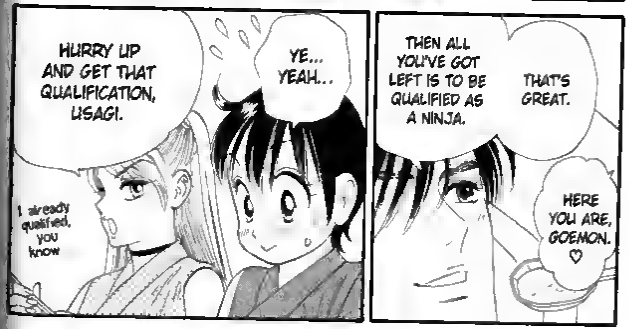
HURRY UP AND GET THAT QUALIFICATION, USAGI.
YE... YEAH...
I already qualified, you know
THEN ALL YOU'VE GOT LEFT IS TO BE QUALIFIED AS A NINJA.
THAT'S GREAT.
HERE YOU ARE, GOEMON. ♡

I WOULDN'T BE IN THIS TROUBLE IF I WAS ABLE TO QUALIFY THAT EASILY...!!
YOU KNOW, YOU MIGHT NEVER BE ABLE TO QUALIFY AND JUST GROW OLDER...
YOU MIGHT EVEN END UP AN OLD WOMAN BEFORE YOU'RE ABLE TO MARRY HANZO...
HANZO .. I'M REALLY GOING TO DO MY BEST.
RIGHT.
WOOH!
WOOH!

NO WAY...!
WHA... WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, USAGI...
IF YOU START PRACTICING EVERY DAY FROM NOW ON, EVEN HANZO WILL ACCEPT YOU...

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I SHOULDN'T ASSUME TO KNOW MY OWN LIMITS!!
GOEMON ...!!
HOW WONDER-FUL... ♡
REACHING THE GOAL ISN'T EVERY-THING...
THE IMPORTANT PART IS HOW YOU TRY TO REACH THAT GOAL...
LIKE HANZO SAID...
YEAH ...!!

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HE HE
TOO BAD I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO JUMP OVER THE SEEDLING TODAY THOUGH...
HOW DARE YOU LAUGH WHILE YOU PRACTICE...
UH...
DO YOU SERIOUSLY WANT TO QUALIFY?!

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WE HAVE ALL SWEAT BLOOD IN ORDER TO QUALIFY AS NINJA!!
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK DOUBLE, TRIPLE THE EFFORT OF THE OTHERS TO CATCH UP WITH THEM!!

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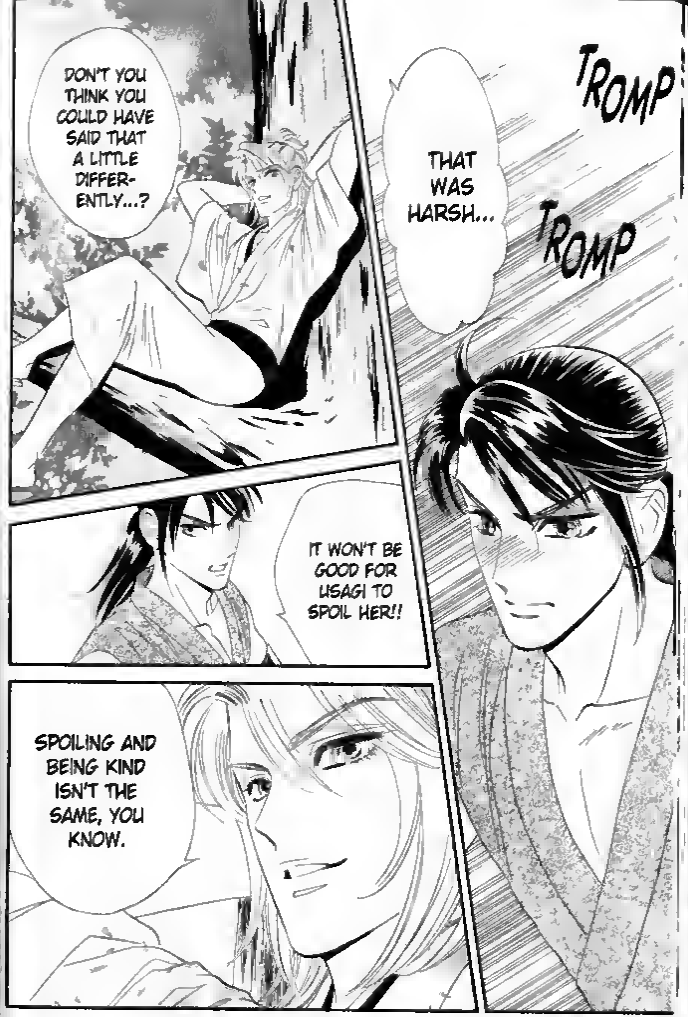
DON'T YOU THINK YOU COULD HAVE SAID THAT A LITTLE DIFFER-ENTLY...?
THAT WAS HARSH...
TROMP
TROMP
IT WON'T BE GOOD FOR USAGI TO SPOIL HER!!
SPOILING AND BEING KIND ISN'T THE SAME, YOU KNOW.

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IF I CAN'T DO IT TODAY, THEN IT'S GOING TO BE EVEN TOUGHER TOMORROW...
LIMP
LIMP
IF I DON'T TRY NOW...
HANZO'S NEVER GOING TO ACCEPT ME!!
TMP
TMP
OOH, I'M SOOOO HUNGRY... ♪
THEY MUST BE AT GOEMON'S PLACE...
YURI .. WHERE'S USAGI?
OH?
USAGI AND YURI AREN'T HERE YET?

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SNIFF
SNIFF
...
LET ME ASK YOU AGAIN.
YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF MARRYING USAGI UNTIL SHE IS QUALIFIED AS A NINJA, RIGHT?
OF COURSE.
THEN LET'S BREAK OFF THIS ENGAGEMENT.

MASTER TANBA!!
I'M SORRY YOU'VE HAD TO TAKE CARE OF USAGI ALL THIS TIME...
OHH...
OHHH...
NOT AT ALL...
WHY IS USAGI CRYING?
WELL, YOU SEE, IT'S THE SEEDLING. USAGI'S...
NOOO, DON'T TELL HIM, GREAT-GRANDPA...!!
WAARGHWAARGH
BUT, IT DOES SEEM THAT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH USAGI HASN'T CHANGED MUCH...
GREAT-GRANDPA... WHAAARGH...
WH..IT ABOUT THE SEED-LING?
IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT...
Don't cry.

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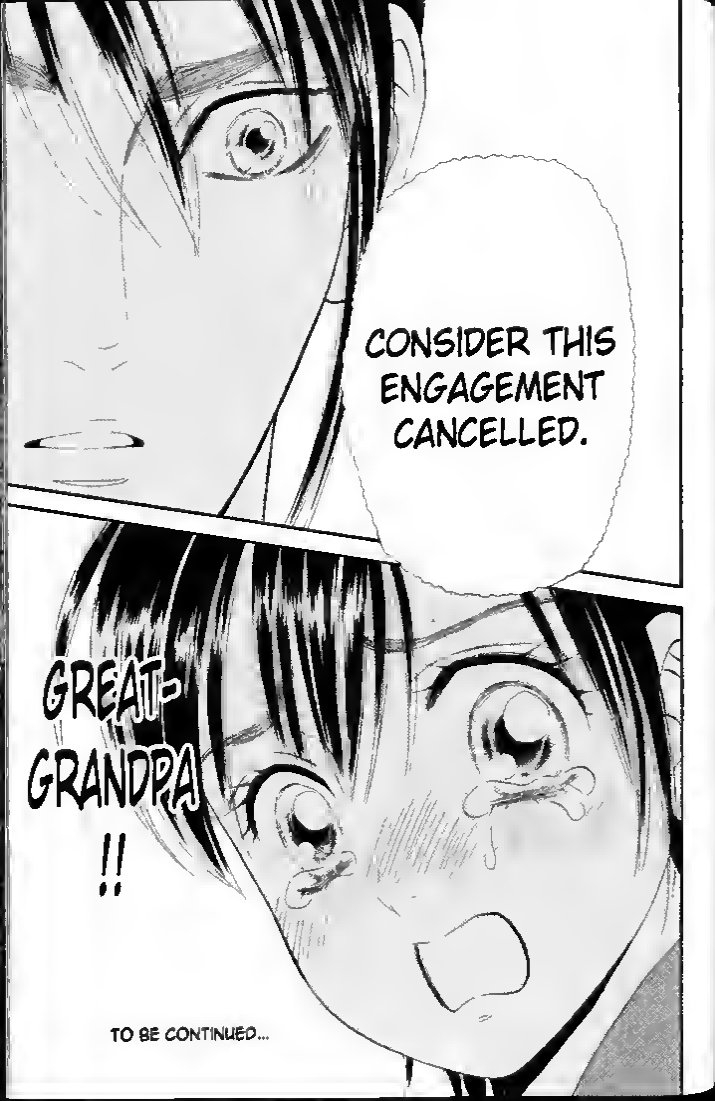

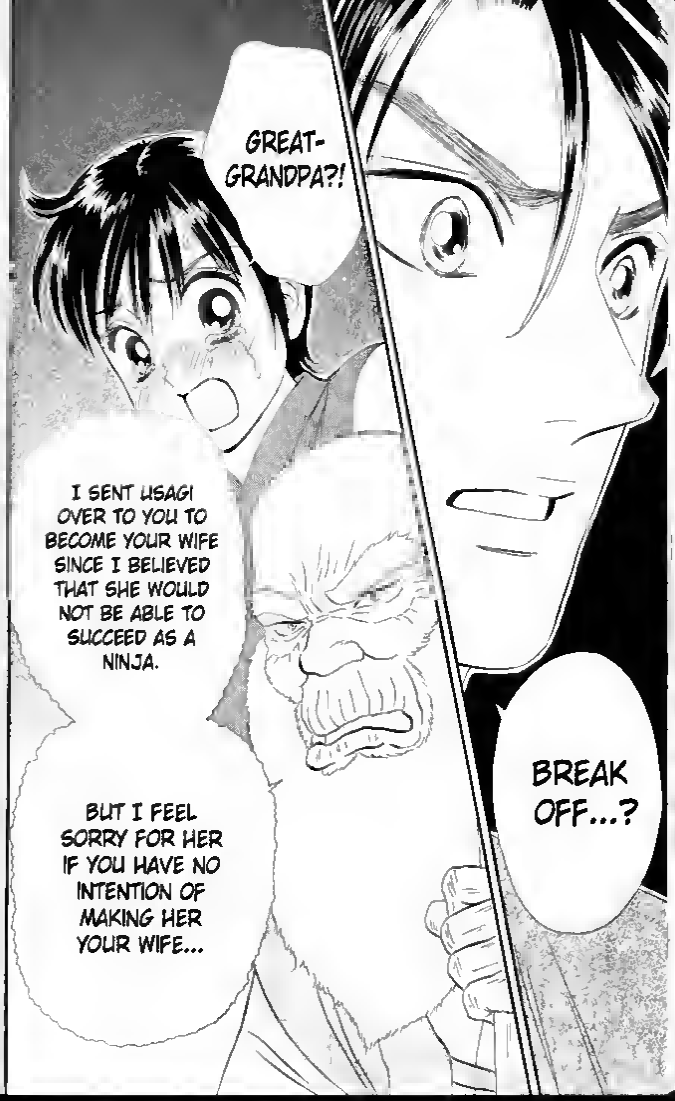
GREAT-GRANDPA?!
I SENT USAGI OVER TO YOU TO BECOME YOUR WIFE SINCE I BELIEVED THAT SHE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUCCEED AS A NINJA.
BUT I FEEL SORRY FOR HER IF YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF MAKING HER YOUR WIFE...
BREAK OFF...?

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Page 87 Manga School
"Manga School" is a section in Japanese manga magazines for people who want to become manga artists. Participants who receive high scores for their sample manga submissions get an award along with a chance to make their debut in the magazine.

Page 87 Ribon
Ribon is a monthly Japanese shojo (girls) manga magazine published by Shueisha.

Page 87 Hikaru Yuzuki
Hikaru Yuzuki, a former *Ribon* manga artist, is still active in creating manga. He currently has a series in *Business Jump*, which is a Japanese Shonen (boys) manga magazine.

Page 113 Margaret
Margaret is a biweekly Japanese shojo (girls) manga magazine published by Shueisha.

The ways of the ninjo ore mysterious indeed, so here is a glossory of terms to help you navigote the intricacies of their world.

Page 19 Papillon
Papillon means "butterfly" in French. Japanese people often call the type of glasses Ue-Rin wears "Papillon(-style) glasses" because of how they look like a butterfly.

Page 42, panel 3 Ao Tsuzura Fuji
Ao Tsuzura Fuji is a type of vine traditionally used as a medicinal herb. It is found mainly in Asia, and its scientific name is *Cocculus trilobus*.

Page 42, panel 3 Otogiriso
Otogiriso is also a plant found mainly in Asia, but it has a slightly infamous name. In Japanese, the kanji characters break down into "young brother," "cut," and "plant." This name derives from a Heian legend where an elder brother killed his younger brother for disclosing the secret of how to make medicine using this plant. Its scientific name is *Hypericum erectum*.

Page 54 War of the Roses
Between 1455-1485, an intermittent civil war occurred in England between the House of Lancaster and the House of York, both branches of the royal house. The war was not called the "War of the Roses" back then, but the name derives from the badges of the two houses: the Red Rose of Lancaster and the White Rose of York.

Page 62, panel 2 Ninjutsu
Ninjutsu means the skill or ability of a ninja.

Page 2 Shimo no Hanzo
Shimo no means "the Lower" and in this case refers to Hanzo's geographic location rather than social status.

Page 9, panel 2 Kimikageso
Also known as "lily of the valley," Kimikageso is a poisonous plant that was originally found throughout Japan. The "lily of the valley" that is often seen in Japan now is from Germany, whereas the original Japanese type is said to be rare these days. Its scientific name is *Convallaria majalis*.

Page 11, panel 5 Iga
Iga is a region on the island of Honshu and also the name of the famous ninja clan that originated there. Another area famous for its ninja is Kouga, in the Shiga prefecture on Honshu. Many books claim that these two ninja clans were mortal enemies, but in reality inter-ninja relations were not as bad as stories might suggest.

Page 18, panel 5 Tokugawa Ieyasu
Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543-1616) was the first Shogun of the Tokugawa Shogunate. He made a small fishing village named Edo the center of his activities. Edo thrived and became a huge town, and was later renamed Tokyo, the present capital.

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